

North Hampton Water Commission  
Minutes: 8/24/05 7pm  
Mary Herbert Conference Room

**DRAFT**

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Chairman Henry Fuller. Commissioners in attendance: Richard Bettcher and Bob Landman. Minutes of the previous meeting, prepared by Tim Harned and Bob Landman, approved unanimously.

At 7:03, the Chair recognized Bob Landman to report on the RSAs applicable to the Water Commission. Bob researched the RSAs, and found that the town vote, when the Water Commission was established, is the specifying document as to guidelines.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Chair asked Bob to research the warrant article, which was possibly adopted in the 1980's after the Cokely Landfill Project was initiated.

At 7:10, the Chair recognized Richard Bettcher to report on his discussion with the Town Administrator Mike Pardue. Richard was notified that Atty. John Ryan was no longer Town Counsel, and that other counsel would be considered to advise the town boards on legal matters. No action necessary.

A general discussion followed regarding the recent Board of Selectmen meeting where Aquarion Water Company spokesmen proposed rate increases and charted investments in infrastructure by town. Bob said he attended that meeting by chance, as the Water Commission was not notified due to an oversight by the Town Administrator and that he said in the future we would be notified. Bob said that North Hampton was reported as having 23% of the capital expenses but just 16% of the customers. It was acknowledged by the water company executives who attended the meeting when Bob questioned them that the new production wells were the investments, not necessarily maintenance or service improvements to North Hampton customers.

Richard commented that recently there were reports that Hampton Falls' private wells were going dry.

He also said that that, prior to the "private well monitoring policy" required by North Hampton of then Hampton Water Works, his well pump ran dry for 7 days, and burned up the motor. He has never received reports of his now monitored well (which monitors the level of the aquifer in the area).

**ACTION ITEM:** The Chair suggested that Bob notify the PUC to intervene in rate case and acknowledge that the Water Commission represents North Hampton in this matter, and asks to be copied on all public documents, memos and minutes pertaining to this issue.

Bob made the motion; Richard seconded; passed unanimously.

At 7:20, Bob presented documents from the USGS and NHDES regarding the water study (locally known as the Laura Simmon's study) on groundwater volume, stream flows, the Winnicut in Greenland and Little River in North Hampton, etc. The study is to be completed this fall, which includes 6000 domestic meters. Richard mentioned that Dr. Balistaro reported that the flow of the Little River, and other tributaries flowed south/south-easterly; wells are drawing from aquifers. Henry said that Seabrook Nuclear had its own well(s).

On a related issue, Henry mentioned that a concerned citizen and town official called him about not having access to the pumping (volume) records from Aquarion, which are thought to be public information. Henry discussed this issue with George Lagassa for assistance.

ACTION ITEM: Motion made and unanimously approved that Bob write a letter requesting the well pumping records and Cokely Landfill data. He is to include a complaint that private well owners are not being notified when their wells will be inspected nor given the results of the measurements recorded. (Aquarion has said that they use an independent service and have no control over their procedure of well owner notification.) Bob is to contact George Lagasse for additional information.

At 7:35, a discussion on Hydrant costs, locations, and maintenance ensued. It was suggested that hydrants might not populate new developments so densely, as the Town must pay an annual fee of \$1000 per hydrant. Also, the maintenance of snow shoveling falls upon our Fire Department (Boy Scouts were hired to paint the hydrants last year according to Commissioner Tim Harned (not present at this meeting). It is assumed that this "fee" we pay is to cover this kind of maintenance, including grass trimming, etc.

At 7:40, the Chair recognized Bob to discuss the Waterline Insurance Program offered by Aquarion, where for an additional fee (1,2,or 3 year terms), a homeowner could insure for repairs up to \$5,000 annually for water line leaks from the house to the street cut off value. Richard mentioned that it might be a good idea for older homes.

At 7:45, Bob mentioned that the Town of Wilton had information on the Town website regarding water. "Does your water bill seem high? Do you have a leak?" He asked the Commission if they would like a webpage on the North Hampton website to inform the public about water issues as these and others, like the proposed rate increase, exterior water line insurance, hot-line to the PUC consumer reports and complaints. It was mentioned that Aquarion is trying to be "a good neighbor" after Hampton Water was

fined for over-chlorination of the drinking water. Bob mentioned articles in *Water World* magazine about improvements in technology regarding mains infrastructure maintenance.

ACTION ITEM: No decision made. To be discussed later.

Bob made motion to adjourn; seconded by Richard; vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned by Chair at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Landman  
Secretary, Water Commissioner